

TOP SECRET

Transcript 2

NRO review(s)
completed.

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THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION PERTAINING TO
PROJECT IDEALIST: HANDLE VIA CONTROL SYSTEM.

25X1A2G

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BOARD OF INQUIRY

19 February 1962

AFTERNOON SESSION

MR. HOUSTON: If the Board is ready to proceed, if its [REDACTED]

agreeable with the Board we would like now to go into the actual recruitment of

Mr. Powers in some detail, and the approach, and as a first witness I'd like to
25X1A9A

ask [REDACTED] to take the witness stand.

25X1A9A

. . . . [REDACTED] was then duly sworn as a

witness by Judge Prettyman

MR. HOUSTON: Would you identify yourself and your position?
25X1A9A

[REDACTED] I am presently Chief of the Personnel

Branch in the Development Projects Division which has developed out of what was

originally Project Aquatone. And I am the gentleman who originally recruited Mr.

Powers from the Air Force for the Project.

MR. HOUSTON: Will you tell the Board what your relationship was to

the recruitment of Mr. Powers?

25X1A9A

[REDACTED] Well, for each of the pilots who was recruited there

was a team - a recruiting team, which consisted of a Personnel Officer, a Security

Officer, and a member of the Air Force -- an active duty Air Force officer. I

happened [REDACTED] to be the Personnel Officer involved in the actual recruitment of Mr.

Powers.

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MR. HOUSTON: If you will just give the steps chronologically that took place.

25X1A9A

[] I have broken this down into three general categories: the criteria used in the recruitment, the evaluation of the individual, and what the final selection consisted of.

The criteria -- I think was first of all done with some pre-screening by the Air Force representatives who had been fully briefed and cleared for the Project. They ~~must~~ preceded ~~the~~ the recruiting team to each of the air bases we visited. It so happened that the base from which Frank Powers was recruited from that base, one of the two officers who was cleared and briefed him -- a Major Horton -- he had been brought into Washington and told the complete story of the project. I think [] was involved in his briefing. He proceeded bringing the team back to the Air Base, and when he arrived, through his knowledge of what the requirements were he had available for us to interview a number of pilots. We were interested primarily in recruiting good airplane drivers at that time.

25X1A9A

Several of the necessary requirements to be eligible for recruitment were a technical proficiency, which I believe consisted of a thousand total hours' flying time and about 500 hours of jet flying time. The individuals must have had a reserve Air Force status -- in other words, they could not be regular Air Force members. The age limitation -- the desired limitation was from 25 to 35. It had to be, of course, a voluntary acceptance on the part of the individual. And then there was a certain

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amount of personality assessment done on the spot by the recruiting team as well as by the individual on the Base -- the Air Force contact who knew the individual being recruited. This I think was aimed more at whether the interviewee had the capacity to get along with people well, to live in small, tightly ~~control~~ controlled, close knit groups, to ~~be~~ be isolated from his family for long periods of time, etc. This was the extent of the personality evaluation. So with this in mind, as I said, on this particular recruiting trip we interviewed 18 pilots, of whom 12 indicated sufficient interest to hear more of the program. Pursuing that just a little further, of these 12 we ultimately rejected one for personal reasons -- he had a child with leukemia and we felt it wasn't wise to take him away from his home, two subsequently changed their minds after we left the Base, and one was later rejected medically. So that from this trip we ended up with eight pilots -- Frank Powers and seven others -- eight as prospects.

Now the evaluation of pilots once they were identified, interviewed, and indicated sufficient desire to see further into the program, consisted first of all in about a week long medical evaluation at the Lovelace Clinic and Foundation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This was quite a thorough physical examination. I happened to accompany Frank Powers along with four others to Albuquerque for this phase.

25X1A9A

 May I ask what the Lovelace Clinic is?

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25X1A9A

[] It's a private clinic and foundation. I think it's

probably recognized -- this is my opinion, or what I believe -- to be perhaps the

leading civilian evaluator of aero-medical points--

25X1A9A

[] The primary purpose was aero-medical research.

25X1A9A

[] Dr. Lovelace has had much experience in this thing.

25X1A9A

[] That included psychological examination?

25X1A9A

[] Psychological medical checks -- there was no

psychological assessment done, that I was aware of. I think throughout the examin-

ation the various physicians and ~~physicians~~ specialists who checked the boys probably

had this in mind, although not many of these doctors knew precisely what these people

were going to be doing. They knew they were required to meet certain standards,

such as high altitude flights, etc. There was always one doctor out there --

usually a Dr. Secrest -- who sort of was in charge of the whole physical examination.

He did a summary wrap-up, I believe, on each individual in which he indicated in most

cases -- and I think this was probably true in Frank's case -- what he felt their

psychological capacity for this sort of thing was. But as far as I know there was not

a psychological examination as such. Now there was one later by an Agency psychologist,

but this was not part of the Lovelace examination.

25X1A9A

[] The Agency psychologist is here and will be here

this afternoon.

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25X1A9A

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Upon successful completion of the examination

the individuals were returned to Washington, all this time under the care of a case

officer - myself, usually - with Frank Powers, and they were returned to Washington

where they were polygraphed, where they were interviewed by the Agency psychologist,
25X1A9A

Upon successful completion of these three phases they then were

given, usually immediately following this trip to Washington, a trip through the

altitude clinic or chamber at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Again ~~assuming~~

assuming they passed all these successfully and continued to be interested in the

program, although since the initial interviews they were told no more about what

the program consisted of, but if at any time they felt they were losing interest

because of what they imagined the program to be, or anything, they could drop out.

They had at this point committed themselves in no way whatsoever. They were

reminded frequently, I believe, that this was still quite a voluntary thing -- they

had signed no contract. Now if they passed all these evaluation standards that

I have just mentioned, the medical, security, and psychological, then the next thing

to do was to get them out of the Air Force, which we did through the good auspices

25X1A9A

of [] Office. They returned to their Air Force Base, submitted an

application for discharge as reserve officers--

25X1A9A MR. HOUSTON: [] may I interrupt to go back a minute

as to what they were informed during these preliminary meetings. You had a

succession of meetings?

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25X1A2G

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25X1A9A

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[] They were conducted in two meetings.

MR. HOUSTON: Would you outline just what was discussed with Mr.

Powers at the first meeting?

25X1A9A

[] Yes. In fact, I should say that the first group of

pilots had been recruited by the time I got into the act, so that I sort of inherited

the procedures which had been put in effect with the first group, and we followed

them right on through. I understand when they recruited the first group a

stenographer was taken along who actually typed on the spot a recap of the points

discussed with the pilot, and he signed it indicating these points had been covered.

Well, in order to avoid the inconvenience, I suppose, of taking the stenographer

along, we typed ahead of time certain points that we knew would be covered, and we

made it a point to cover these. And again, Frank Powers signed two pieces of

paper indicating these points were covered. I'll just go through these very quickly.

The first point was -- this was the first interview with Mr. Powers on the 17th of

March 1956 -- the first point covered was identification of what the group represents,

namely, an organization to form an international group of volunteer pilots. At the

present time the sponsorship of this organization and the participants will remain

anonymous. Then we went over the factors affecting the candidates' assignment to

this program -- background, character, personal conduct, etc. Then, and this was

the main point that was stressed in the first interview, we covered the restrictions

on his personal life -- for example, living under an alias, possibly, controlled

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25X1A2G

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communications, mail censorship, possibility of an 18 month separation from family.

This we considered the first big hurdle to get over in the first interview. We described the nature of the work to be performed as that of flying of a hazardous nature, with commensurate pay, further details of which would be furnished at a later date if the candidate indicated interest. It was explained to the candidate the contact with him had evolved from a list of persons recommended as possessing the qualifications desired, that the Air Force recommended these officers. At all times during each interview we had an Air Force officer present who vouched for the civilian doing the interview. The necessity for resigning from the Air Force for the duration of the contract with reinstatement rights and no loss of longevity, promotion rights, etc., was explained, and we indicated that a letter signed by high authority would be shown him guarantying this at some later date. Then the candidate was asked to think over what we had told him, come back, and at a later date -- which date we would advise him -- let us know his decision. In some instances the individual said, "I've heard enough -- I don't think I'm interested" -- and they signed a secrecy agreement, were debriefed by the Security Officer, and proceeded on their way with the assurance this would have no adverse affect on their Air Force career. Others indicated on the spot at that time that they either had no wife to discuss it with or whatever decision they made their wife would go along with, and in some cases we gave them the second interview immediately --

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25X1A2G

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they said, "I have nothing to think over." In Frank's case we talked to him on

the 17th, then we went back and talked to him two days later - on the 19th.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Does your record show what his response was
at the end of the first interview?

25X1A9A

[] No, not as such -- no, sir. I recapped this with
a Memorandum for the Record and an interview report after I returned from the
trip -- oh yes, and that does indicate he wanted permission to discuss--

MR. HOUSTON: Would the Board like to have those points brought
out in that interview made a part of the record?

25X1A9A

[] That is merely a statement of the topics discussed?

25X1A9A

[] Yes. And it's signed by Mr. Powers.

25X1A9A

[] That these topics were discussed?

25X1A9A

[] (Reading from Exhibit 2) "The following points
were briefly discussed with the subject individual this date" -- now I must explain
to the Board we were busier than heck trying to interview 18 people, but this is
covered by a subsequent--

25X1A9A

[] This is signed by Powers in his true name?

25X1A9A

[] Yes.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Would you let us have a copy of this.

. . . . This Memorandum for the Record was then introduced

into the record as EXHIBIT 2

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25X1A2G

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[REDACTED]
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JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Your record shows what his response was at

the end of the first interview when you asked whether he wanted to think it over

or reject it or accept it, or what not?

25X1A9A

[REDACTED] Yes -- in a report of Interview. I'll read the first three or four lines. (Reading) "Lt. Powers is 26 years of age, married, no children. He has been married for one year. Was not sure at time of first interview just how wife would feel about the separation and he asked permission

25X1A9A

to discuss this one factor with her. [REDACTED] granted such permission. He reappeared for second interview and informed us that both he and his wife had agreed that separation in military service was something to be expected and he indicated to us that he would like to continue into second interview."

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: I would like to have a carbon of that.

. . . This Report of Interview was then introduced into

the record as EXHIBIT 3

MR. HOUSTON: Would you tell us what occurred at the second interview?

25X1A9A

[REDACTED] The second interview took place two days later. Again I have an acknowledgement of points covered, signed by Mr. Powers. The first paragraph says: The candidate was questioned as to his acceptance and

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25X1A2G

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understanding of all conditions outlined in the first interview. An affirmative answer was given. The need for security and restriction of all information given at any time relative to this project was reiterated. Then the third point on this is that a hypothetical mission was described involving deep penetration overflight of Soviet Bloc countries in single engine equipment superior to any with which the candidate is now familiar.

MR. HOUSTON: And this was the first time it involved Soviet overflights?

25X1A9A

 That is right.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Was that signed by him?

25X1A9A

 Yes, sir.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Would you put a copy of that in the record?

..... This Memorandum for the Record was then entered

in the record as EXHIBIT 4 . . .

25X1A9A

 What was the date of that Memorandum?

25X1A9A

 19 March 1956 -- which was two days after the

~~xxxx~~ original interview.

Then another point covered in this second interview was the terms of the contract were outlined - the monetary advantage. With an

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25X1A2G

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affirmative reaction from the candidate, the problem of developing an ~~ex~~ explanation for his employment during the period of the contract was briefly explored, and we agreed to pursue it further at a later date. The candidate was advised that through -- and here again I failed to write in the name, but it was Major Horton at his Air Base -- he would be notified of the date, time and place for physical examination, and that official orders would be provided to cover it. It was outlined to the candidate that steps designed to examine his background and personal reputation will have to be undertaken, and the candidate agreed that this was acceptable to him.

Now I might point out that back here when we outlined a hypothetical mission part of this paragraph states that: "A discussion of capture or non-return from mission ensued, with the understanding that the candidate would at a later date be more able to evaluate for himself the risk involved." It goes on to say that all people connected with this felt that the risks involved were of reasonable proportion. The candidate was assured that he was not being required to accept or sign a contract at this time but would have at least two or three more weeks to consider our proposition. Those were the points covered in the second interview. Again he was receptive to these points and we considered him an applicant.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: And the original of this paper that remains in your file, that is signed by him personally?

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25X1A2G

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25X1A9A

 Yes.

25X1A9A

 You indicated in that paper that the terms of

the contract were discussed only insofar as pay was concerned. Was the contract read to him?

25X1A9A

 Yes. Just paraphrasing what is here, we said

\$775 a month in general duty status, and \$1500 a month in operational duty status,

with a bonus of \$1,000 per month accruing after arrival at the operational site --

~~XXXX~~ bonuses accruing to his benefit, etc., and the terms of the insurance coverage

and leave arrangements were explained. This was about it.

MR. HOUSTON: And after that what was the procedure leading up

to the actual signing of the contract?

25X1A9A

 Again I have Memorandums for the Record which

were written -- and incidentally, I also have something here which was a Memorandum

of Understanding which he signed at this time -- the date of the first interview --

which is referred to as the secrecy agreement -- (Reading) "By virtue of my

signature below I -- and it looks like F. E. but I think it's F. G. Powers affirm

that I will not discuss or otherwise disclose without prior authorization" etc., etc.,

and this is signed by Mr. Powers and signed by myself as witness. I don't know

whether you want a copy of that or not.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Yes I think we might as well have it in the record.

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25X1A2G

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. . . . This Memorandum of Understanding dated ~~XXXX~~
3/17/56 was then entered in the record as EXHIBIT 5

25X1A9A

[] That signature covered the security matters

you had raised up to this point?

25X1A9A

[] That is right.

Now in answer to your question, Mr. Houston,

following this I have a memorandum dated 20 April 1956 which says that on the
2nd of April, that is, after this 19 March interview, I met with Mr. Powers and
four other pilots and proceeded to the Lovelace Clinic. Following completion
of the physical examination we returned to Washington where the pilots were
measured for pressure suits by a gentleman from the Clark Company. Later on
this same date -- the 7th of April -- the remaining pilots - meaning Powers -
completed personal history statements and psychiatric tests and were interviewed
25X1A9A
that afternoon by [] I said "psychiatric" here -- I should have said

"psychological".

25X1A9A

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Who was []

25X1A9A

[]

25X1A9A

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Then do you have or will [] have the

material that was developed in that interview?

25X1A9A

MR. HOUSTON: [] will present that information.

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25X1A2G

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25X1A9A

25X1A9A

[] On 10 April they were polygraphed by Mr.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: What was the purpose of the polygraph at

that point -- just testing their account of their own personal history or something?

25X1A9A

[] I don't know that I could answer that. I think

I am going to be followed by some Security people, and I defer to them, with your permission.

MR. HOUSTON: Yes -- the theory and practice of the polygraph was required in the security presentation.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Was it to test the information that he had given you?

25X1A9A

[] I think so. We were working on a pretty tight schedule, and I think this probably -- and I'm guessing -- helped to guide us whether we should pursue these particular individuals further -- buying suits, etc.

On 11 April the pilots departed D. C. for Omaha and return to Turner Air Force Base.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Was the one visit to Lovelace Clinic the only visit they made there?

25X1A9A

[] At that time. He subsequently has been back for follow-up examinations.

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25X1A2G

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JUDGE PRETTYMAN: But incident to recruitment just this one
25X1A9A

trip to Lovelace and then the one interview by [REDACTED]
25X1A9A

[REDACTED] That is right. Now the Lovelace trip, incidentally,

I believe took five days -- it's that thorough.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED] Should we have a copy of that?

25X1A9A

[REDACTED] That was the only reason I brought that out --

to add a little continuity to the processing here.

. . . . Memorandum for the Record dated 20 April 1956

was then entered in the record as EXHIBIT 6

25X1A9A

[REDACTED] Now the next record I have is a Memorandum for

the Record dated 7 May in which I report that on the 4th of May I received a

telephone call from Major Charles Horton, Turner Air Force Base, informing me

that letters of application for discharge had been received from, among other pilots,

Mr. Powers. The rest of this Memorandum indicates a schedule, as closely as we

could gauge it at that time, for their actually getting out of the Service -- which I

personally don't think is terribly pertinent to it all.

MR. HOUSTON: What did Powers do next, and when did you next
see him?

25X1A9A

[REDACTED] Well, I don't know exactly when I next had my

hands on him. He signed his original contract on the 28th of April 1956 -- again,

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this was because we physically had possession of him for signing it. He read it, and at this time he had had a full operational briefing -- prior to signing this contract, I should say, he had had a full operational briefing by one of our senior operations people. I don't have on record who it was -- I'm inclined to think it was [REDACTED] 25X1A9A -- but I really don't know. But before they signed the contract they had the complete picture of what the airplane was, what its capabilities were, the organization -- a rough sketch of the organization, of the detachments. I don't think at that time we were able to tell them what their probable base location would be. But anyhow, suffice it to say that any questions that had gone unanswered in their minds up to that point were answered for them before they signed the contract. So he signed on 28 April and the effective date was 14 May 1956, which follows by one day his discharge from the Air Force.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: How long is that contract -- how many pages?

25X1A9A

[REDACTED] It's three pages plus less than a half page, legal size paper, single spaced, typewritten.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Have you got a copy of that?

25X1A9A

[REDACTED] Yes, I have several copies.

MR. HOUSTON: I suggest we put one in the record as Exhibit 7.

. . . . Copy of aforementioned contract was then entered

in the record as EXHIBIT 7

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25X1A2G

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25X1A9A

[] do I understand he received a full

operational briefing before he resigned his commission in the Air Force?

25X1A9A

[] That is right.

25X1A9A

[] That was subsequent to the time he put in his

application for resignation.

25X1A9A

[] But he had full knowledge of the vehicle and the

purpose of the Project before he resigned from the Air Force?

25X1A9A

[] That is right. It had to be that way to accommodate

the dates he signed, etc. Again, it almost had to be that way also, I think, before

they could make up their minds -- knowing everything -- to resign from the Air Force --

this was a point, of course.

25X1A9A

[] Did that particular full operational briefing cover

the question of possible penetration of the Communist Bloc -- which was mentioned

previously as a possibility or probability?

25X1A9A

[] I would say it did. At that time it was made

abundantly clear to him, as I recall, that this was the whole purpose of the whole

thing. They were shown schematics of flight plans, aircraft performance, etc.

25X1A9A

MR. HOUSTON: [] is that the original contract that

he signed?

25X1A9A

[] This is the original of the first contract.

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MR. HOUSTON: There were subsequent amendments when it was renewed?

25X1A9A

☐ Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Can we have copies of the contract effective 1 May 1960?

25X1A9A

☐ Yes. I have a second contract which was effective

~~XXXX~~ 16 December 1957 and signed that same date, which really ~~xxx~~ superceded

this one because there had been some substantive charges made in salary, etc.

Then I have an extension of an amendment to the second contract which extended

the ~~contract~~ contract period from 16 December 1957 through 31 October 1960 --

which would cover the May 1st date, of course.

MR. HOUSTON: You have the originals of those?

25X1A9A

☐ Yes, I do.

MR. HOUSTON: And they are executed by Mr. Powers?

25X1A9A

☐ They are, yes -- in each case he signed these.

MR. HOUSTON: Would the Board like to inspect those?

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Have you copies of them?

25X1A9A

☐: Yes.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: I think we ought to have copies in the record.

Let's get them in order. Let the record show EXHIBIT 8 is the second contract

signed by Powers, dated 16 December 1957. And EXHIBIT 9 is the third contract

signed by Powers, dated--

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25X1A9A

[] Here is the original -- there is no date of the

signing of it. This was done in the field. There is an effective date on it.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Effective date is 16 December 1959. Let

the record show that this contract, EXHIBIT 9, contains no date of the signing.

25X1A9A

[] These contracts, incidentally, are signed in

pseudonym -- which pseudonym for him I have here.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Let's take the pseudonym.

25X1A9A

[] The pseudonym of Francis G. Powers is

25X1A2E

[]

MR. HOUSTON: Was that pseudonym acknowledged by Powers?

25X1A9A

[] Yes, signed and his thumb print. The true

name is up here and the pseudonym is down here.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Now the pseudonym is used on all three

of these contracts?

25X1A9A

[] Yes.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: I think ~~perhaps~~ perhaps a description of that

in the record--

MR. HOUSTON: This is an acknowledgment of pseudonym

25X1A2E

stating: I do hereby declare that my true and legal signature is Francis G. Powers --

25X1A9A

witnessed by [] with the thumb print described as the right thumb print.

And below attached to but separable from that first identified paper, ~~paper~~ paper

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25X1A2G

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No. SD22879B, states: I do hereby acknowledge in my relations with the United

States Government I will use the following signature where required -- signed

25X1A2E

25X1A9A

[] witnessed by [] with the print identified as the

right thumb print.

25X1A9A

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: That original is retained by []
25X1A9A

[] Yes. And it's [] -- it looks

25X1A2E

like an "L" but it's a "T".

MR. HOUSTON: Were there any further negotiations or dealings

with Mr. Powers that you had?

25X1A9A

[] No. Upon his effective date of ~~separ~~ separation

from the Air Force - 13 May 1956 - he then was given whatever time he felt was

necessary and we felt was reasonable to relocate his family and proceed to the

25X1A6A

training site at []

MR. HOUSTON: Then from then on you still had general personnel

responsibility for the pilots as a group, in case questions came up?

25X1A9A

[] That is right.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you remember any significant interviews or

meetings with Mr. Powers?

25X1A9A

[] No, I do not, except that prior to his departure

for overseas he along with three or four others proceeded to the Agency training

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25X1A2G

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site for approximately one week of escape and evasion and survival training. But

then this was about, I believe, the last processing type contact I had with him.

MR. HOUSTON: Does the Board have any questions?

25X1A9A

[] Somewhere in the early part of your

testimony, after I think your first interview with him you told him there would be

some inquiry into his personal background--

25X1A9A

[] Yes, sir.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: That of course took place. Do your records

show whether that data was gathered from him or was there any independent inquiry

made as to his personal background?

25X1A9A

[] My records do not show that. As a part of

the processing here in Headquarters he was required to fill out what we call a

Personal History Statement -- a rather all-inclusive statement of background. I

believe this went to our Security people for the necessary security clearances.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Can we get a copy of that?

25X1A9A

[] Yes, a copy of it.

MR. HOUSTON: This is a standard operating procedure in the Agency --

the individual gives quite complete information about his background, which is then

checked.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: I thought if we could get a copy of it, that might

save an awful lot--

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25X1A2G

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MR. HOUSTON: Any other questions?

25X1A9A

 You accepted without any question at all

the SAC rating of the man as one desirable for this Project -- you didn't go

back of the administrative work which SAC had done?

25X1A9A

 No, sir. I can perhaps amplify on that a

little more.

25X1A9A

 I think a little bit. Did you evaluate that?

25X1A9A

 No, sir, I did not. As I said when I started,

people had preceded me and made certain people available, and I had nothing to

do with the initial choosing of who was interviewed. As a matter of fact, our

primary concern was, I think, with the individuals, is they were recommended

to us as being very competent pilots, and I have in a Memorandum of Interview

a very high recommendation from Major Horton as to Mr. Powers' proficiency

as a pilot, which made him particularly attractive.

MR. HOUSTON: Any other questions? We can always get

25X1A9A

25X1A9A

 back. has personal knowledge of the Air Force

portion of the screening in this. Would you like to hear from him in this connection?

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: As far as I am concerned I don't want to

interrupt the thread of your presentation.

25X1A9A

MR. HOUSTON: We maybe should have had on prior to

this.

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25X1A2G

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25X1A9A

[] here is the original Personal

History Statement filled out by Mr. Powers, and we have a true copy of this.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: And that will be EXHIBIT 10. And

it's a copy of the original -- it's called "PERSONNEL QUESTIONNAIRE"--
25X1A9A

[]: It's called a "Personnel Questionnaire", and it's

dated 9 April 1956. It's a personal history statement. It's a four and a half
page form with space for writing answers about relatives, background, schools,
references, training, experience, etc., and it's signed by Francis g. Powers
at Washington D. C. on 9 April 1956.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: And that was the persomel statement to
25X1A9A

which [] made reference a little while ago, that he filed with the

Agency?

25X1A9A

[] Yes, sir.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: At the time Mr. Powers was interviewed
here in Washington, which was subsequent to the Lovelace trip and all that--

25X1A9A

[] Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: I would like to note for the ~~your~~ record that on the
original there is written in in pencil one item that does not appear on the copy --
it's written on the back of one page, and does not appear on the copy of that page --
which gives residences as follows: Nov 50 - May 51 - Lowry AFB, Denver, Colo.,

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25X1A2G

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Oct 50 - Nov 50 - Lackland AFB, Texas; 1946 - Oct 50 - Box 66, Pound, Virginia.

Otherwise, this copy is a machine copy of the face of those other pages.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Maybe we will want to pick up some of that information -- couldn't we have it just copied on the back of one of those pages, or one of you put it on and initial it?

25X1A9A

[] I'll write it on the back and initial it.
25X1A9A

MR. HOUSTON: We can put [] on for a few minutes
25X1A9A

to describe the Air Force part of it, and then we will have [] come in.

25X1A9A

. . . . [] was then sworn as a witness
by Judge Prettyman

25X1A9A

MR. HOUSTON: [] I believe you personally participated
in the Air Force screening?

25X1A9A

[] That is correct. I can explain how this thing was
25X1A9A
~~was~~ set up. Happily, I can be very brief -- [] covered most of the
points. I can corroborate his points, which I do, and amplify a few points, and
answer any questions. The way we set this thing up, first of all we were
interested primarily in experienced pilots--

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: ~~was~~ When you say "we" - you are speaking
from the standpoint--

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25X1A9A

[] I'm speaking from the standpoint of the

Air Force, speaking in this particular case for the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, who had been directed to help this Project in any way requested. What we did -- we were primarily interested in getting ourselves good solid pilots. Well, the requirements -- first of all we had to modify them. We initially wanted people who had a thousand hours of jet time. Well, we subsequently found out, with the age limitation set on these pilots to find a pilot with a thousand hours single engine jet time he was pretty much of an old man by that time, relatively speaking, so we modified that to a thousand hours total time, of which 500 was to have been single engine jet time. He was to have long-range over water experience, in other words celestial navigation experience. And then the other point we put in was to have someone we knew from the ~~past~~ records was an inherently stable individual. When we figured out these requirements we felt the best source of our pilots would be SAC - Strategic Air Command -- SAC strategic reconnaissance wings. They still had single engine fighter aircraft that they were using at the time for strategic reconnaissance. Rather than have the headquarters per se have a direct interest in the program, since my interest was to be a continuing one we felt the best thing to do was to put a drop between my office, Headquarters USAF, and the pilots, and at the same time bring into the situation people familiar with the requirements and with the people we might be recruiting. So we happened to bring in Major Horton, who was Powers'

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squadron commander. He was completely briefed, given the requirements, and told basically the type of individual we wanted -- a stable individual, primarily, one who would indicate he would hold up well under stress and who had the ability to get along in various and sundry areas or elements that would not always be limited to the military family. In other words, could he move into a unique unit and get along with civilians and other types of people in the same organization. It was on this basis, then, that Major Horton in this particular case went back and ~~xxx~~ went through the files of all the pilots attached to the wing and came up with for the first screening about 20-odd pilots he thought would fulfill this requirement. This then is basically how Powers was chosen -- Powers and the rest. We were looking for good airplane drivers, stable individuals -- with no thought as to their intelligence capability - no thought given to these people as spies. We never looked upon them as spies -- we looked upon them as airplane drivers. That was how the basic choice was made.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Now, Major Horton -- you called upon him for such men meeting that description?

25X1A9A

 Yes, sir.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: He went back and came up with 20 names?

25X1A9A

 Yes, sir.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Those were from his personal estimate -- he knew the men?

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[] His personal estimate was based on the fact of how much experience they had, primarily, and what their record indicated as to stability, etc. -- and the fact he knew them personally was a big help. So that is the way the initial choice or screening was made, and then it was brought to the point that [] mentioned in terms of carrying them through the various phases of information.

25X1A9A

[] Do you happen to know about how long Powers served under Horton before the selection?

25X1A9A

[] I think at least a year. As a matter of fact, if I'm not mistaken -- I don't think so -- I believe Horton was his rating officer on his effectiveness reports. Horton knew him reasonably well. As a matter of fact, Horton pointed out that Powers was one of the better pilots.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: Generally speaking what would enter into the commanding officer's mind -- Major Horton's -- in making that evaluation? How would he judge as to whether a fellow would stand up under stress? Would he just guess at it, or go through some tests?

[] You will have to forgive me, sir, but I think I can say this, and I'm sure General LeMay would back me up. If this man was a member of a SAC striking wing at that time he was considered a damn competent pilot, an individual who could stand up better than average under any circumstances.

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JUDGE PRETTYMAN: How would they know that ?
25X1A9A

[] From the training he went through, for one thing.

The fact that -- I think in Powers' case, for example, Powers had had one bail out -- although I'm not sure of this -- he had one emergency whereby he had to bail out of his airplane. This I would want to corroborate -- but this was an example of how he would react in an emergency -- what does he do if he has a flame-out etc.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: I just wondered what sort of test they put them through. My acquaintance is with the Infantry and doesn't extend to the Air Force--

25X1A9A

[] That is a little difficult to answer, sir, as far as giving any specific tests to figure how they would stand up ~~mm~~ under any given stress or strain -- I can't answer that--

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: You mean putting him in what he thinks is a normal flight and then somebody pulls a button on him -- and how he acts?

25X1A9A

[] I wish I could put it in Infantry terms, but I can't.

But these lads at the time they were flying -- they were flying at the time a Republic F84F, which was probably as mean an airplane to fly as has ever been built. It had all the mean characteristics of any airplane you could think of, and any man, as far as I'm concerned -- in my limited jet experience, and I must confess

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my jet experience is quite limited -- any man who could master that airplane and come out alive over a certain period of time would have to be a little better than average.

JUDGE PRETTYMAN: For our purposes, then, we can sum it up this way, that Major Horton's recommendation of the man to you was sufficient for us to assume that the man had through tests or experiences or activities, or what have you, demonstrated he was the kind of man you were looking for. You didn't just say, "I'll take Joe, and George, etc."

25X1A9A

[] Oh no, sir. I think this was perhaps borne out in Powers' particular case, for example, that Powers was one of the better pilots that we had in the entire group.

25X1A9A

[] Was it true in the normal process of selection within SAC the personnel of the air wings had gone through a process of selection and were rated very highly?

25X1A9A

[] Right. These people were very carefully chosen.

25X1A9A

[] So they were somewhat of an elite group to start with. Is that why you looked into this--

25X1A9A

[] Yes. This is the reason we sought out the SAC wings as the best source of our pilots. They were we felt the best qualified for what we had in mind.

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MR. HOUSTON: How large a group was this?

25X1A9A [] You mean the entire wing?

MR. HOUSTON: That the selection was made from.

25X1A9A [] I would say the selection was probably made from

somewhere in the ~~xx~~ neighborhood of a hundred pilots.

25X1A9A

[] Were any of those pilots from other categories

of the SAC organization?

25X1A9A

[] All from within that wing.

MR. HOUSTON: And were Major Horton's instructions -- granting

this was thought to be a good group in the first place -- to pick the best ones?

25X1A9A

[] To pick the people, knowing what he knew about

the requirement, pick the best possible people to do the job.

25X1A9A

MR. HOUSTON: Shall we go on now to []

25X1A9A

. . . . [] left the meeting at this point

25X1A9A

. . . . [] was then called as a witness and

duly sworn by Judge Prettyman

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